

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method performed by a gaming device comprising:  
  
generating an outcome of a primary game, the primary game generating  
5 jackpot winning outcomes and non-jackpot winning outcomes;  
  
offering a plurality of jackpots to a player; and  
  
awarding a number of jackpots to a player for a jackpot winning outcome in a  
current game based on an amount bet by the player for the current game.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein generating an outcome of a primary game comprises  
10 displaying at least one row and multiple columns of symbols, wherein combinations of  
symbols across one or more paylines determine the jackpot winning outcomes and the non-  
jackpot winning outcomes.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein there are three rows and five columns of symbols in  
the primary game.
- 15 4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising incrementing the plurality of jackpots  
based on, at least in part, the occurrence of certain icons displayed in the primary game.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising incrementing the plurality of jackpots  
based on, at least in part, a percentage of wagers bet by one or more players.
6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
  
20 detecting a number of credits bet on a primary game, wherein awarding a  
number of jackpots comprises awarding a number of jackpots equal to the number of  
credits bet for the primary game.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of jackpots comprises visible jackpots that may be won by a player for a current game and hidden jackpots that may be won by a player in future games.
8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising replacing the number of jackpots won  
5 with one or more other jackpot amounts.
9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the other jackpot amounts comprise hidden jackpot amounts that were not visible to the player in the previous game.
10. The method of Claim 1 wherein awarding a number of jackpots comprises awarding the plurality of jackpots to the player when the primary game generates a jackpot winning  
10 outcome and the player makes a maximum bet.
11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of jackpots comprises progressive jackpots incremented over time.
12. The method of Claim 1 wherein the gaming device is one of a plurality of gaming devices having a common plurality of jackpots.
13. The method of Claim 1 wherein the gaming device comprises a stand-alone gaming  
15 machine, and the plurality of jackpots apply for that gaming device only.
14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the primary game comprises displaying a plurality of symbols in at least one row and in multiple columns, each jackpot being associated with a column, the method further comprising incrementing a jackpot associated with a particular  
20 column when a jackpot-incrementing symbol is displayed in that column.
15. The method of Claim 14 wherein, after awarding a number of jackpots, remaining jackpot amounts are shifted to different columns.
16. A gaming device comprising:  
a display screen for receiving signals from a processor for displaying images;  
25 and

a processor, the processor being programmed to carry out the process of:

generating an outcome of a primary game, the primary game generating  
jackpot winning outcomes and non-jackpot winning outcomes;

offering a plurality of jackpots to a player; and

5               awarding a number of jackpots to a player for a jackpot winning outcome in a  
current game based on an amount bet by the player for the current game.

17.    The device of Claim 16 wherein awarding a number of jackpots comprises awarding  
the same number of jackpots as credits bet for the current game.

18.    A method performed by a gaming device comprising:

10               generating an outcome of a primary game, the primary game generating  
jackpot winning outcomes and non-jackpot winning outcomes, wherein the primary  
game comprises displaying a plurality of symbols in at least one row and in multiple  
columns;

15               offering a plurality of jackpots to a player, each jackpot being associated with  
a column; and

incrementing a jackpot associated with a particular column when a jackpot-  
incrementing symbol is displayed in that column.

19.    The method of Claim 18 further comprising awarding a number of jackpots to a  
player for a jackpot winning outcome in a current game based on an amount bet by the player  
20   for the current game.

20.    The method of Claim 18 where the jackpot incrementing symbol is a value.

21.    A method performed by a gaming device comprising:

generating an outcome of a primary game, the primary game generating  
jackpot winning outcomes and non-jackpot winning outcomes;

offering a plurality of jackpots to a player, each jackpot being associated with a certain jackpot winning outcome of the primary game;

incrementing the plurality of jackpots based on, at least in part, the occurrence of certain icons displayed in the primary game; and

- 5               awarding one or more of the jackpots to a player in response to the certain jackpot winning outcome occurring in a current game.